

USAR\_J-08\_Sasaki

08:30:22:01

My name is Fukujiro Sasaki.

08:30:35:14

I was born on November 7, 1914.

08:30:44:19

I was born at Shiba, which is now called Nishi-Shinbashi, Toranomom, Minato-ku.

08:31:04:10

I manufactured woodwork, such as kokeshi dolls (wooden dolls), and baseball bats. I also made wooden trays and bowls. There were a few woodwork businesses.

08:31:42:12

I was playing a pitcher, when I was in a grade school.

08:31:55:03

I grew up in the countryside. I was a twin, and I was separated from my parents. I was sent to the countryside, and I learned how to play baseball when .....(?) I needed to go across a mountain to go to school.

08:32:19:19

It was around Ina in Nagano Prefecture.

08:32:44:11

At the February 26 Incident, I was in Toranomom. Many soldiers were around Nagata-cho. Then, the rebel army was brought under the control. Barbed-wire entanglements were set around the place, so I couldn't go anywhere. After the control on the area was removed, I first went to Miyakezaka to see the scene.

08:33:13:13

There was still blood scattered on the ground covered with snow. I didn't know what exactly had happened. I went to the wall where some people were killed. I walked up Miyakezaka. Then, I saw an advertising balloon with a message to the rebel army. I remember that well. It told them to surrender. The advertising balloon was flown.

08:33:55:20

I felt that Japan would make a risky attempt.

08:34:23:15

The army was very right-wing in their opinions. I didn't know that we would fight against the U.S. I didn't even think that we would go to a war.

08:34:51:23

Since Japan was imposed a blockade, we couldn't get any oil. There was a rumor going around that that was why we would start a war.

08:35:09:00

That was what some important guy said. I don't remember his name. But he started the rumor. The munitions. I heard a lot of information. Suspicious information.

08:36:00:09

I was manufacturing corks for the military machine guns at the munitions factory. ....(?) And also, model cannons. I made a specialty of making them. Then, soldiers often came to the factory. I had a hunch that we would go to a war.

08:37:10:10

I never heard about it. No, I didn't hear about it.

08:37:28:19

It was the Sino-Japanese War in 1941. The U.S. wasn't involved in it. I thought it was a war between Japan and China.

08:38:05:16

They had trainings in order to send soldiers to Hawaii. Koreans were got together there. They were trained for three months.

08:38:40:11

There were not enough Japanese soldiers.

08:39:04:11

It happened all of sudden, so I don't know what to say. I couldn't believe it was happening. I didn't even expect it to happen.

08:39:28:19

I heard it from the radio broadcast. It said that we went to a war somewhere. A radio broadcast. I didn't even think it would happen. It was so sudden. Really. At that time, we were more interested in Sino-Japanese War.

08:39:51:22

I was at Shinbashi, Toranomom.

08:39:56:06

I was still there. I didn't leave for Korea yet. I went there later.

08:40:13:02

I went to Korea in 1943.

08:40:23:09

But when I got there, I thought we would lose the war.

08:40:30:02

I was an artillery man. We used artillery guns made in 1905. They didn't work well. The gun barrel moved when we fired. So a shell couldn't reach the target. It was impossible.

No matter how many we fired, it was impossible to hit airplanes. With those shells. I guess they could reach barely 2,000 meters, if possible. It was impossible. We couldn't fight with those artillery guns.

08:41:39:22

I performed military duties. We didn't have quick-firing guns yet in Japan. Though we had machine guns. We manufactured a model of a quick-firing gun from wood. In order to try it. I thought it would be useless. We made shells from wood, and put lead into them to add some weight. We made a lot of them to fire in rapid succession. Because we didn't have quick-firing guns.

08:42:29:21

None of my family and friends went to Pearl Harbor.

08:42:55:23

My life changed after the attack on Pearl Harbor. We didn't have anything to eat. We had a ration system. Everything changed at once. Everything. Clothes, foods, almost everything were rationed. The ration system.

08:43:44:17

We couldn't get enough clothes. Clothes and foods. We didn't have enough meals. We were given a certain amount of meals per person every day. But we were still short of foods. Instead of rice, potatoes were supplied.

08:44:36:01

I think it was on May 25. It was when my house was burned down. By the air raid on May 24, the next town was completely destroyed. Then, I was relieved that our place was fine. Near the moat at Nijyubashi.

My house took fire at the air raid on May 25. We couldn't put out the fire. The house was burning down from the midnight on 25<sup>th</sup> to the evening on 26<sup>th</sup>. It was horrible. I could see my wife standing across the street, but a machine gun was keeping fired, so I couldn't even approach toward her. Then, my house was completely burned down.

08:45:33:17

Before the air raid, people started selling their houses and went to the countryside. So prices of the houses in Tokyo went down. Then, I bought a house. But it was gone in a night. The house which I just bought was burned down. We didn't have a place to sleep, so we laid out the newspapers and make our kids sleep on them. I thought we were over at that time. I thought all of us were completely destroyed.

08:46:34:06

I thought a war was cruel. Because many innocent people died. Many civilians died.

08:47:21:18

I was called up for service in Korea. I was on the ship to go back home. I took a train from Hiroshima, and got back home. I was discharged from military service in Hiroshima.

08:47:48:01

It was around the summer in 1943. It was in the middle of Japan losing.

08:48:17:02

Right after I got there, I was discharged from military service. In a timely manner. I was in a bad condition. I was suffered from typhoid.

08:48:47:00

We didn't know it was atomic bombs that hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There was only an announcement that some special bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I was wondering what kind of bombs were. It was revealed after the end of the war that atomic bombs were dropped on those cities.

08:49:20:22

There was an \_\_\_\_\_ (?) announcement. It said that the special bombs were dropped, but it didn't say that they were atomic bombs. It was the radio broadcast. Because of them, the war ended. Right?

08:49:45:02

I heard about that later. After the war ended.

08:49:49:10

At that time, I doubted that Japan could manufacture the same thing. So I thought that Japan would lose the war.

08:50:18:03

I listened to the radio broadcast around the noon on the train on my way back home. The Gyokuon-hoso. It was around the noon.

08:50:36:06

It was on the radio. It said that the war was over. I didn't know what to say. There were no men in town. Many men were called up for service. There were only women. It was odd. There were no men.

08:51:33:18

I think it was a good thing for Japan to lose the war. This is my opinion. If Japan had kept going, I don't know what would have happened to us.